

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 IO-03 /012 R

66011

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APPROVED BY: NEA/ARN:MR. DRAPER

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R 241512Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044050

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT USUN 0589, SENT SECSTATE, INFO CAIRO,
DAMASCUS, TEL AVIV 17 FEB 76:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0589

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SY, XF

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MOVES TOWARD FURTHER UN CONSIDERATION
OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION

REF: DAMASCUS 524

DAMASCUS 611

STATE 29336

USUN 454

1. SYRIAN FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN
AFFAIRS JOUEJATI HAS FOR PAST WEEK BEEN MUCH IN EVIDENCE
AROUND CORRIDORS OF UN. HE CLAIMS TO BE IN NEW YORK ON PERSONAL
BUSINESS, AND MAY IN FACT BE SIMPLY RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS HE
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MADE AS SYRIAN DEPUTY PERMREP PRIOR TO 1974. IN ANY CASE,

WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE TO EXPLORE SYRIAN THINKING REGARDING NEXT STEPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. JOUEJATI SAID HE BELIEVED PRESIDENT ASAD HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT ACTION TO TAKE BEFORE MAY 31 UNDOF RENEWAL. SYRIAN UN MISSION, AT LEAST, HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS, EVEN THOUGH MORE THAN TWO WEEKS HAD PASSED SINCE ASAD HAD BEEN GIVEN OPTIONS PAPER (DAMASCUS REFTELS.) JOUEJATI WONDERED IF ASAD MIGHT NOT HAVE REJECTED THE LIMITED UN OPTIONS PROPOSED BY SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. COMMENT: JOUEJATI'S SPECULATION MAY HAVE BEEN PARTLY WISHFUL THINKING SINCE HE CLEARLY WAS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO FURTHER SYRIAN MOVES AT THE UN. END COMMENT

3. JOUEJATI RAN THROUGH THE OPTIONS AS SEEN BY HIS MINISTRY. ONE POSSIBILITY WAS TO MOVE QUICKLY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNDER GA RESOLUTION 3414. (PARA 4 OF 3414 ASKS SC TO TAKE ALL MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT GA AND SC RESOLUTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST UNDER AN APPROPRIATE TIME-TABLE.) ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WAS TO WAIT UNTIL UNDOF RENEWAL TIME, AND THEN SUPPORT A DRAFT SIMILAR TO THE JANUARY 26 VETOED RESOLUTION. IF THIS HAPPENED, HE CONTINUED, SYRIA WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO INCLUDE EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SWEDISH, ITALIAN AND PERHAPS BRITISH VOTES. FINAL OPTION, IF SC RESOLUTION WERE VETOED, WAS TO HAVE RECOURSE TO GA "UNITING FOR PEACE" PROCEDURES (STATE AND USUN REFTELS).

4. JOUEJATI SAID NO ONE IN HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED UN ACTIVITY OF THIS SORT WOULD ACHIEVE REAL PROGRESS. THE POINT WAS TO DEVISE A FACE-SAVING DEVICE TO ENABLE ASAD TO EXTEND UNDOF. WE SAID THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, WE BELIEVED FURTHER UN ACTION COULD ONLY DIVERT ENERGY AND ATTENTION FROM REAL PROBLEM OF GETTING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS STARTED.

5. JOUEJATI REMARKED THAT UNDOF EXTENSION WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER IF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDER WAY OR ABOUT TO START. WHILE PLO PARTICIPATION WAS ESSENTIAL, HE BELIEVED PROCEDURES FOR PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION COULD BE WORKED OUT IN A WAY ISRAEL COULD LIVE WITH. PERHAPS, HE SAID, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ANSWER LAY IN "PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS," WITH THE US ACTING AS MIDDLE MAN BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PLO. SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE UNDER THE GENEVA UMBRELLA, OR MIGHT BE OUTSIDE IT. WITHOUT ELABORATING FURTHER ON THE CONCEPT JOUEJATI SAID HE BELIEVED ASAD WOULD AGREE TO NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS SORT. MOYNIHAN UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLICIES, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, UNSC RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE044050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760070-0139
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760218/aaaaapeh.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 DAMASCUS 524
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MOVES TOWARD FURTHER UN CONSIDERATION OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION
TAGS: PFOR, SY, XF, UN, (JOUEJATI, RAFIQ)
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006